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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

November 7, 2017

The Honorable James Mattis  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Mattis:

I write regarding news this week of the U.S. Air Force failing to submit proper documentation to the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) database and to ask that the Department of Defense conduct an immediate and thorough review of the procedures DoD and each branch of the military uses to report criminal activity to NCIC.

A strong and accurate background check can help prevent deadly weapons from getting into the hands of criminals, the mentally ill, and other dangerous individuals. However a background check will only be effective when local, state, federal, and military officials promptly submit required information into the system.

I appreciate your request of the DoD Inspector General to investigate this specific case as well as policies across DoD to ensure accurate submission to NCIC, but DoD must concurrently conduct an immediate review to identify any other possible NCIC submission errors. Please advise my office of the findings of both of these investigations including the circumstances of this individual case, any additional cases where incomplete information was reported to NCIC, current procedures for reporting information into NCIC from all branches of service, and what steps DoD will take to improve NCIC submissions and ensure compliance with the law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress